

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 2074, December 20, 1958

HARNESSING THE ZAMBESI RIVER

Great new lake now rising in the heart of Africa

THE mighty Zambesi is being harnessed by a great dam of concrete in the Kariba Gorge, 300 miles downstream from the Victoria Falls. Rising between 300 and 400 feet above its foundations, and stretching for 1900 feet across the valley, the Kariba Dam is now being finally sealed. As a result, the river is rising behind the dam and beginning to form a lake that will eventually extend for 2000 square miles. And by 1960, if all goes well, two hydro-electric stations built in the rocky banks of the Kariba Gorge will be providing light and power to a vast area of Central Africa.

Before the last gaps in the vast dam wall were closed, some of the tribesmen living in the Zambesi basin declared that the work would never be done. Indeed, last winter's floods, which swept away the engineers' footbridge and threatened the coffer dam itself, seemed to suggest they might be right. But the engineers, with their millions of tons of concrete, closed those gaps inch by inch until the greatest wall ever built in Africa rose above the river.

FLOWING THROUGH A PIPE

For the next six months or so, during the dry season, the only water flowing downstream will pass through a pipe, seven feet in diameter, in the wall of the dam itself.

But the rainy seasons will gradually swell the river again, and in due course the waters will begin to pour through the outlets at the top of the dam. Then the Zambesi will become mighty again as it flows downstream to reach the Indian Ocean. But its captured waters will be driving turbines and producing light and energy for the Africans' huts as well as for the industries of the Copper Belt.

LIVINGSTONE'S AIM

It is just 100 years ago since David Livingstone was pushing his way through the same Kariba Gorge in his canoe, hoping that it might be navigable for ships up to the Victoria Falls, which he had discovered in 1855. It was his aim to bring a better standard of life to the heart of Africa, and undoubtedly the great Kariba experiment would have made his heart rejoice.

Where he once tramped through the steamy heat of the Zambesi valley, the Kariba Lake will rise and expand until it becomes 180 miles long and covers 2000 square miles of country.

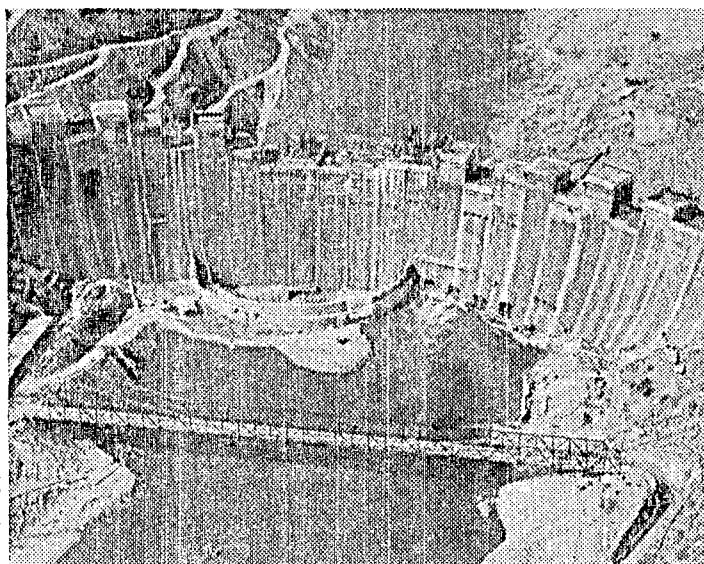
For the last three years officials and missionaries have been busy explaining to the Batonga people what great advantages they will get when the Zambesi is controlled. They had to be persuaded to leave their ancestral homes deep in the

valley and move to higher parts. Each family has been given a fresh piece of land to cultivate, a food supply for three months, and all the equipment for building a new home.

The new lake will supply them with fish. Parts of the valley which will be less than 100 feet below the surface have already been cleared of trees, so that when the lake fills up trawlers may operate without damaging their nets. Avenues have also been cleared, joining one future fishing ground to another, and these will eventually become channels marked by buoys.

ELEPHANT TRAIL

The town of Kariba, which did not exist three years ago, now has 52 miles of good tarred roads, blasted through the solid rock. When the first road into the area was planned, the government surveyors found they were following an old elephant trail. The elephants had instinctively taken the easiest gradient down the hillside, and had beaten out a hard path all the way to the river brink. No survey was needed. The bulldozers just moved in and made a



An aerial picture of the great Kariba Dam on the River Zambesi

He rescued a girl from a shark

Peace hath her heroes, and one of them, recently awarded the George Medal, is Mr. Paul Brokensha, a Rhodesian farmer who was bathing at a Natal resort when a shark seized a girl. Mr. Brokensha rained blows on the shark and wrestled with it until it swam away. The girl lost an arm—but owes her life to his brave action.

Two other heroes were awarded the George Medal at the same time. One was a nursing sister in Fiji, Mrs. Edith Gladys Collins, who was severely wounded while defending her servant against a man armed with an axe. The other was an African of Northern Rhodesia, Lilani Daka, who rescued a woman from a lion.

OUTSIDE PASSENGER

A jackdaw goes to school every day with eleven-year-old Marcus Wilkinson of Themelthorpe, Norfolk. And he goes by school transport too!

When Marcus gets into the taxi which takes him to Foulsham school each morning, "Jack" perches on the bonnet like a mascot. At school he is locked safely in a shed until it is time to go home.

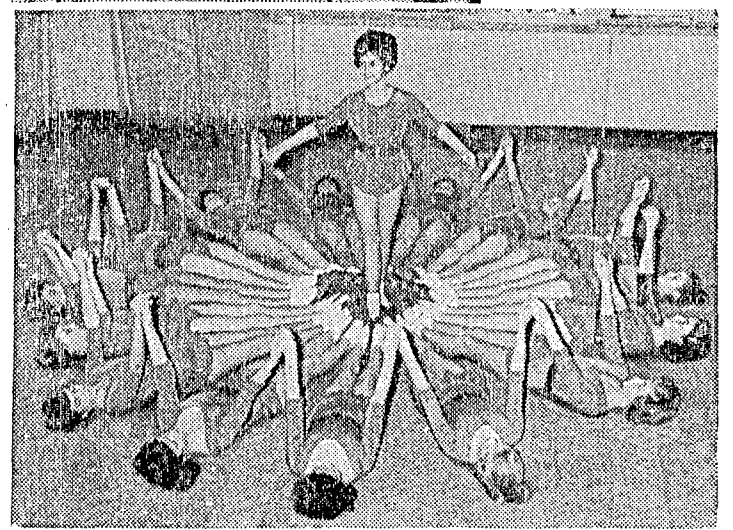
proper road over it. The elephants still use it.

A new sight is being added to the wonders of Africa, and a new source of energy which will create new industries as well as helping miners, planters, and farmers—and raising the living standards of all the Africans, still living the pastoral life of their ancestors. Kariba, with its new riches of light and power, is a prime example of what can be done with vision, energy, and modern resources.



Getting ready for the pantomime

Preparations are now in full swing for the London Palladium pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*. On the left we see scenic artists at work on a back drop, and (below) girls of a dancing school in North London rehearsing for their parts.



Rules for new motorways

A special road code has been issued by the Minister of Transport for the new motorways, the first of which, the Preston Motorway, was opened this month.

The new code, which will be incorporated later in the Highway Code, is necessary because the motorways are new to this country and conditions of travel on them will be different from those on ordinary roads. They are not public roads for all users in the usual sense, but more like railway tracks. So they are reserved for fast traffic and are not open to the general public except on certain conditions.

Motorways have neither cross-roads, sharp bends, roundabouts, traffic lights, nor pedestrian crossings, and no upper or lower speed limit. Pedestrians are not allowed on them, nor cyclists, learner-drivers, mopeds, motor-cycles under 500cc, nor invalid carriages, nor may animals use them.

The code states that drivers not confident of keeping up a steady high speed are advised to avoid the motorways. Stopping or parking is forbidden except in emergency, when the vehicle must be moved right off the road and on to a special eight-foot strip at the side.

Cars joining the motorway from side roads must give way to traffic

already on it. What is called "lane discipline" is also emphasised. There are dual carriageways with two traffic lanes each way, and transfer from one lane to another must be given special care with the high speeds prevailing.

The first section of the new motorway system, which will eventually cover the whole country, is near Preston, Lancashire, and the experience gained on it will be incorporated in the rules for the great Birmingham-London motorway which is planned to be completed towards the end of 1959.

The new code is being distributed to local road-users by the Lancashire County Council and by the R.A.C. and A.A. to their members.

NEW DUTCH TOWN

A brand-new town is to be built near The Hague, seat of the Netherlands Government. Faced with the disturbing fact that the city cannot provide living space for more than another 60,000 people, the authorities have decided to build a satellite town nearby which will accommodate 100,000. It will be called Wilsveen.

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NEW CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS

When the peers return from the Christmas recess they will welcome a new Clerk of the Parliaments. Mr. Victor Goodman succeeds to this office on the retirement of Sir Francis Lascelles.

In rank the Clerk of the Parliaments is the chief permanent officer of the Lords. He is appointed by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, and he has important duties which are outlined here by the CN Parliamentary Correspondent.

THE Clerk of the Parliaments sits at the Table in the House of Lords (with a Clerk Assistant and a Reading Clerk at his side), and carries out almost the same duties as the Clerk of the House of Commons, who also has two assistants.

On his appointment he makes a declaration promising to make true entries and records of things done and passed in the Parliaments and also to "keep secret all such matters as shall be treated therein."

CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

He controls various departments of the Lords, and is responsible for preparing the minutes (or records) of their proceedings. In addition he is custodian of a priceless collection of manuscript records kept in the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster.

Among other duties he calls peers by name to speak on a motion or raise a question of which they have given previous notice; and he reads messages from the Queen and the Com-

mons. At all times he is the respected adviser of the Lord Chancellor (who presides over the Lords) and any other peer on questions of rules and procedure.

Of all the duties associated with the Clerk of the Parliaments, however, the most picturesque is the ceremony when he signifies the Royal Assent to Bills passed by both Houses. This ceremony takes place several times in a session and begins when—as described in the CN last week—Black Rod is sent to summon the Speaker and the Commons to the Bar of the Lords.

NODDING ASSENT

The Clerk (who wears a bob-wig, a small wig without "curls") meets the Speaker at the Bar and takes from him the Bill or Bills which a Royal Commission of peers is waiting to "nod" on to the Statute Book.

Nodding the head is the recognised form of parliamentary assent. On this occasion, of course, when the Sovereign is present in spirit and theory though not in practice, it is done with great ceremony. And the Clerk is the key to it all.

By this time he has returned to the Table. He stands there while the title of each Bill is called out in turn by the Clerk of the Crown, an important official who is permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor. As the robed peers in commission nod their approval and raise their hats the Clerk of the Parliaments bows towards the Commons at the Bar and utters the ancient Norman-French phrase: *La reyne le veult* (The Queen wills it).

A party for the animals

Two horses and a donkey will be guests of honour on Thursday at a Christmas party for animals at Ilford, Essex. The horses are Time and Tide, two dray horses belonging to a London brewery; the donkey is Blinkers, a 12-year-old of Enfield, Middlesex, who has the distinction of having appeared in the Horse of the Year Show at Harringay Arena.

The party is being given by the P.D.S.A. in the quadrangle of their sanatorium at Ilford. The animals well enough to leave their sick pens will be at the party, to dine at long trestle tables laid with all the things they specially like, prepared in their own kitchen at the sanatorium. There will also be an illuminated Christmas tree and an outside cake.

No doubt a good time will be had by all!

Out and About

ONE of the wild creatures which is not interested in a Christmas dinner, or any other meal just now, is the dormouse. It is just bad luck for him if the weather turns warm enough to rouse him. For he fattened himself up nicely before November and then buried himself in a dry shelter, hoping to last out the winter before needing to feed again.

It was not our cleverness that led to finding a dormouse in the copse. Between two big roots of an old oak tree one of us pulled a curious-looking toadstool. Then we noticed how the dead leaves were disturbed. Looking closer, we saw a hole made in the leafy carpet, and inside we could see part of a ball of light brown fur. From it came a tiny wheezing noise, like someone asleep with a cold in the head.

Carefully raising some more leaves, we saw the little creature tightly curled up, his long tail stretched over the top of his head. It was a pleasure to tuck him up properly, restoring the shelter which some other creature must have disturbed.

So he may, after all, be able to sleep peacefully until spring. C. D. D.

News from Everywhere

A town called Sputnik is to be built on the outskirts of Moscow.

The Australian State of Victoria has adopted a flower emblem. It is the pink heath (*Epacris impressa*) which grows only in that State.

Portrait bust



A new portrait bust of the Queen by Cecil Thomas, O.B.E., was exhibited in London recently.

Disney Land, the famous amusement centre near Los Angeles, is to have a monorail overhead railway. Ordered from a Swedish firm, the railway will be about a mile long, and its two trains will carry 100 passengers. It is expected to be ready next summer.

During the first ten months of this year Britons drank 1246 million gallons of milk, 12½ million more than last year.

STRANGERS OF THE DEEP

Blonde and brunette "hairy" eels (so-called because of the filaments of skin which look like hair), chocolate-coloured sharks with green eyes, and white fish with huge heads and tapering down to a tiny tail—these are among the strange creatures caught recently in the Cook Strait, New Zealand.

Some of the world's finest diamonds will be displayed at Christie's, London, from January 9 to 28 in aid of the National Playing Fields Association and the Children's Country Holiday Fund. The Queen is to lend some of her jewellery to the exhibition.

A female baboon escaped from Frankfurt Zoo and spent 26 hours on top of a church steeple 131 feet high. It was not frightened by the church bells, and was eventually captured when leaving the steeple for the balcony of a neighbouring house.

HOUSES OF NOMADS

A housing estate is to be built in Norway's Lapp district of Kautokeino for 300 Lapps who normally live in tents.

Work is shortly to begin on a road in the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland to enable skiers to drive to within 20 minutes' walk of the chief slopes. Costing about £36,000, the road will be completed within a year.

A swan waiting in a bus queue in Burton-on-Trent was picked up by the conductor and released when the bus reached the River Trent. A partridge lost its way and landed in the doorway of a butcher's shop at Hounslow, Middlesex. It was released in Richmond Park the next day.

A balloon released at a carnival at Chesterfield last summer has just been returned from an address in East Germany—behind the Iron Curtain. Another balloon released during a science lesson at a Bicester school has just been returned from West Germany—with an invitation for a pupil to spend a free holiday in Weingarten.

Over £400,000,000 is to be spent on improving Britain's schools between 1960 and 1965. Large sums will be allocated to secondary modern schools.

Miss Janet Bunc, a 26-year-old landgirl, rescued her employer from a bull at Wraxall in Somerset the other day. She drove the animal away with a pitchfork while the farmer lay injured.

THEY SAY . . .

We have been born in a fortunate and exciting epoch. Professor A. C. B. Lovell

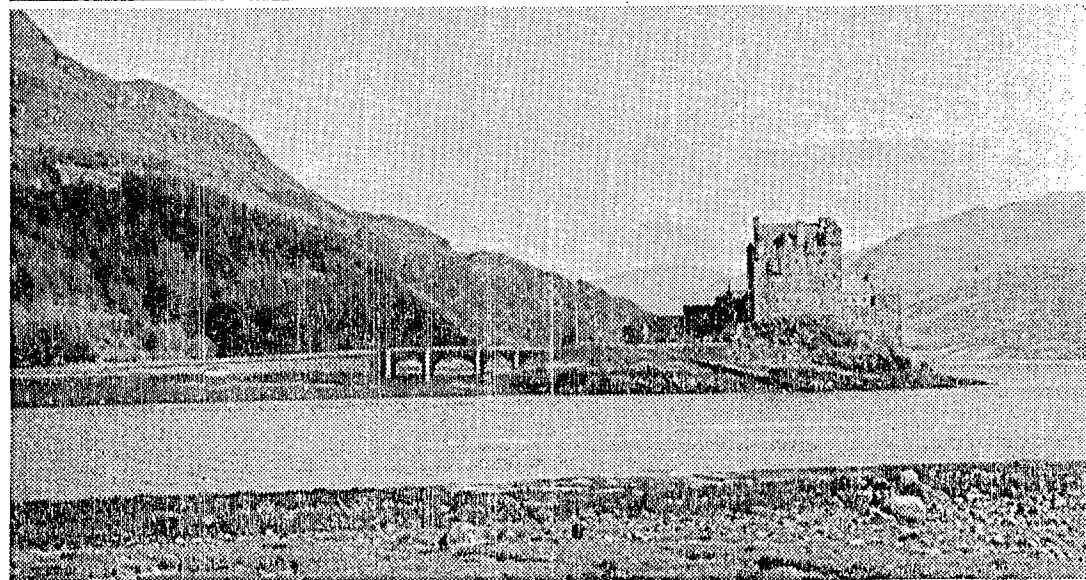
PARENTS have just got to make themselves unpopular sometimes.

Mr. Harold Sturge, London magistrate

Prize for best friend

A Welsh corgi, owned by Mrs. H. T. Carnley-Fox, of Hatfield, near Doncaster, has won the "Lassie" gold medallion of the American Leslie Frewin Organisation. The "Lassie" Gold Award is presented to dogs considered by the selection committee to have given new meaning to the tradition that "man's best friend is his dog."

Mrs. Carnley-Fox and her dog have raised nearly £75 for cancer research.



OUR HOMELAND

The castle on the rocky islet of Eilean Donan, facing Loch Duich, in Ross and Cromarty

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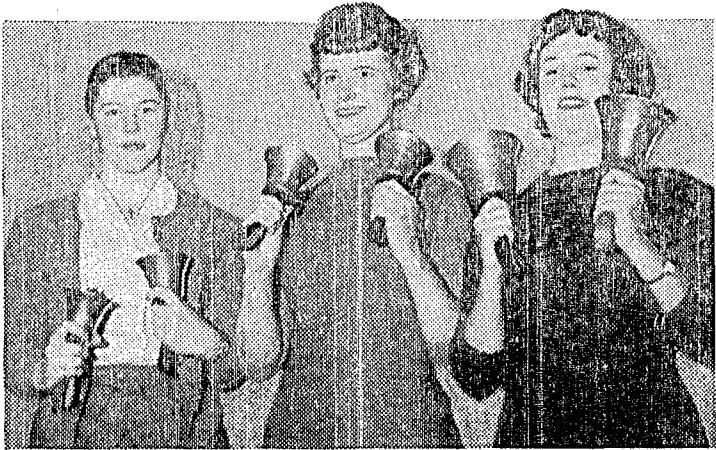
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Ready to ring at Christmas

Three of the team of handbell ringers who will be touring the Egham district of Surrey at Christmas time. They will give concerts for charity.

Rats up a tree

A family of four rats was seen stealing apples in an Isle of Wight orchard recently. Disdaining the fallen fruit, they climbed a tree, and the two grown-up rats made their way along the swaying branches, nibbling one apple after another to select the sweetest. Having made their choice, they pulled the apples from the twigs, and, holding them in their jaws, climbed down and made off. But the two young rats were not so fussy; they remained in the tree happily gorging themselves on the nearest fruit.

The farmer noticed that the rats only came when the milking machine was running, and he was busy in the cowshed. So he switched on the machine and hid in the orchard and in this way caught them in the act.

CONVERSATION PIECE

The Mayoress of Beddington and Wallington, Surrey, was at the local Cage Birds Show when she was suddenly greeted by "Hullo, Charlie, how are you?"

Turning quickly, she saw a black Indian Hill Myna bird. So the Mayoress replied: "I'm all right, how are you?"

This was too much for the Myna, who could only repeat his question to the bird next to him.

MONKEY TRICKS

All boys and girls who delight in the television appearances of Congo, the London Zoo chimpanzee, will be glad to capture him for themselves in Desmond Morris's book, *The Story of Congo* (Batsford, 10s. 6d.). Full of fine pictures, the book is a fascinating study of chimpanzee character, as well as an entertaining account of ape antics.

Dr. Morris learned chimp "language" and mannerisms in his dealings with Congo. He discovered, for example, that a high-pitched "ough ough" signifies suspicion of a newcomer, but "ouh-ar ouh-ar" is a friendly greeting. And he found that the chimpanzees' equivalent of a handshake is to stretch out an arm towards you and press the back of the hand against your face.

An engaging mixture of intelligence and mischief, Congo was something of a handful for his long-suffering trainer. For instance, the chimp needed showing only once how to put a penny in a slot and extract a small packet of raisins. He immediately clamoured for more pennies, threatening to wreck the machine if he did not get them.

The TV studio, of course, delighted him. He shinned up the wall to the lights and had to be coaxed down with a grape—then he kept on going up the wall to obtain more grapes.

Congo is even more widely known as an artist. An exhibition of his pictures toured the United States, and among celebrated people who possess "Congo Originals" is Pablo Picasso.

BILLY BUNTER ON THE BOARDS

The world's most famous school-boy is to make his first stage appearance at Christmas. He is to star in a new play, *Billy Bunter's Christmas Mystery*, which will be presented, matinees only, at London's Palace Theatre, for three weeks, starting on December 27.

Specially written by Maurice McLoughlin, this play is a new adventure story of the evergreen—and ever-hungry—schoolboy and the Famous Five—Harry Wharton, Bob Cherry, Frank Nugent, Johnny Bull, and Hurree Jamset Ram Singh. The part of Bunter will be played by Gerald Campion, who has appeared as "the Owl of the Remove" in scores of television programmes.

This will surely be a show for all the family, taking fathers and grandfathers back to their boyhood days—and possibly reminding Grannie of how she used to borrow her brother's copy of *The Magnet*. As for the boys and girls—well, the spectacle of Bunter eating his way through piles of jam tarts and other boys' tuck hampers will doubtless be sheer delight. The price of the seats ranges from 4s. to 12s. 6d., and the time of the matinee is 2.15.

Ground control for helicopters

American scientists are developing a method of controlling helicopters from the ground by means of a tether. With the machines in production today it is almost impossible for the pilot to see what is happening immediately underneath him.

The new device controls the machine by means of a 50-foot-long cable, connected to an automatic pilot. Once the machine has been positioned, it can be kept there for as long as is needed without the pilot taking any further action.

Red Letter Day in Londonderry

The anniversary known as The Closing of the Gates will be observed in Londonderry on Thursday this week. There will be a procession, fireworks, bonfires, and general merrymaking, all to recall the courage of some young apprentices in 1688, during the troubled times of James II.

A Catholic army under the Earl of Antrim was approaching Protestant Derry (as Londonderry was then called) to take control of it. The Derry Corporation was uncertain what to do, but a group of 13 apprentices acted on their own initiative. According to tradition,

a youth named Alexander Irwin drew his sword and declared: "I for one will willingly die in defence of my people and my faith." The others agreed and, overpowering the city guard, they slammed the Ferryquay Gate in the face of Antrim's advancing troopers. The crowds shouted their approval, and the other city gates were shut and locked.

Thus began the famous siege, a period of fearful privations for the citizens of Derry. But relief came at last in the following June, after William of Orange had landed in England.

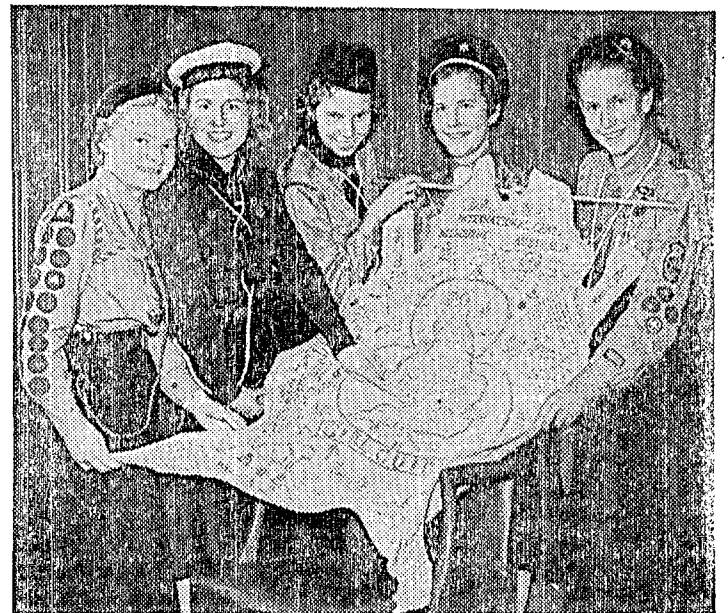
Farm goes by train

A complete farm recently travelled by special train from Irvine in Scotland to Lincolnshire. In addition to the farmer's family, furniture, and car, the train carried 14 milk cows, a heifer, a bull, a harvester, and two tractors, as well as other stock and machinery.

PIT BOY HERO

John Connolly, of Stanley, a Durham pit boy, has been awarded the Daily Herald Order for Industrial Heroism for his part in rescuing a man buried by an underground roof fall last March.

Aged 16, John is one of the youngest ever to receive the award.



On their way to camps across the world

In the top picture are some of the girls who will represent their country at the forthcoming International Guide Camp near Melbourne. They will be away four months. One of them, 16-year-old Patrol leader Julia Briars (right) is presenting her pocketwork map of England and Wales to the Australian Girl Guides Association. In the picture on the left are five Scouts from different parts of England who are on their way to the Pan-Pacific Jamboree to be held from January 3 to 10 at Auckland, New Zealand. Guy Sankey (left) is only 13; at the end of the line is the leader of the contingent, Assistant District Commissioner Thomas Roome of Derby.



ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

THAT MAN WITH MANY VOICES

LEONARD CHASE, who produces Focus in BBC Children's TV, gave me a real surprise the other day by saying we shall hear Gilbert Harding as the Wolf, Norman Wisdom as Little Boy Blue, Norman Evans as the Grannie, and Bernard Miles and Bernard Bresslaw as the wood-choppers in Little Red Riding Hood in next Monday's edition.

"What a marvellous cast!" I said. "How on earth did you get Gilbert Harding in pantomime?"

Then came the explanation. Little Red Riding Hood will, in fact, be virtually a one-man show by that man of many voices, Peter Cavanagh. A real little girl, not chosen at the time of writing, will play Red Riding Hood.

This is one item among many which will have a special Christmas flavour. Eileen Evans, the stamp expert, will be describing the Father Christmas headquarters she visited in Copenhagen. This is where Post Offices in many parts of Europe forward letters and cards addressed to Father Christmas. The senders can be sure of a reply.

Leslie Dakin, who runs a Toy Museum, will be showing exhibits, and Arthur Groom, the financial expert, will be telling how the money flows at Christmastime. And look out for some specially rich Christmas sweets in the Candy Bar. Highlight will be a Dutch delicacy so very special that no one would dream of eating it except on Christmas day.



Peter Cavanagh

Alice makes a record

If you love Alice in Wonderland, I do hope you will listen to a remarkable 90-minute recording in the Home Service starting at 1.55 p.m. next Tuesday. Featuring some of the best-known names in BBC Children's Hour and directed by Douglas Cleverdon, it has been made by the Argo Record Company (Record No. RG 145/6).

Alice is played by 12-year-old Jane Asher, daughter of a Wimpole Street surgeon. She was chosen after auditions that had been going on for three years. After a great many children had been heard, Douglas Cleverdon was beginning to think he would have to choose a grown-up. Then one day last February Jane walked into the studio. Says Mr. Cleverdon: "She looked unbelievably like a Tenniel drawing, complete with Alice ribbon and white stockings. When we heard her voice test on the loud-speaker we felt our search was over."

It turned out that Jane almost knew the Alice books by heart.

When recording time came she "lived" the part so fully that the rest of the cast forgot her real name and were calling her Alice.

The story is told by Margaretta Scott. You will hear Norman Shelley as the Caterpillar, Carleton Hobbs as the Mad Hatter, and Vivienne Chatterton, the Dormouse. The Duchess and Mock Turtle—both singing parts—are taken by Marjorie Westbury and Ian Wallace.



Jane Asher

Jane Asher, by the way, is a keen swimmer, so she knew what she was about when recording Alice's encounter with the Mouse (swum by Frank Duncan) in the Pool of Tears.

Deryck Guyler makes a fine Cheshire Cat.

BUT MR HAPPY DOES NOT MIND

THE Associated-Rediffusion Showboat Children are being switched from Tuesdays to Thursdays. For Small Time is being reshuffled. From December 29 onwards the Tuesday shows will be on Thursdays, and the Thursday shows on Tuesdays. It all sounds rather complicated. The one person who will not get mixed up is Mr. Happy, Controller of Birthdays. He is in the programmes both days.

Why the changes? Producer John Rhodes let me into the secret. It seems that the Wembley studios are too packed out with other shows on Tuesdays to allow space for the visi-motion apparatus needed for the Showboat Children.

"Visi-motion is all done with magnets and mirrors," said John. "Peter Firmin's drawings lie flat on a table. But as the TV cameras look straight ahead, we have to rig up mirrors at 45 degrees, rather like a periscope,

to get a direct view. This takes up a lot of room."

Watching Showboat characters, you can see that their limbs and eyes move separately. These are fixed on top of the original drawings. Their movements are controlled by magnets twiddled by operators with their arms under the table.

Pamela Joyce's Showboat story ends on January 15. It will be followed by a new serial.

Behind the scenes at the circus

ONE of the guests in ITV's tele-recorded visit next Monday to Bertram Mills' Circus at Olympia will be Audrey Russell, who usually broadcasts for the BBC. With Neville Barker, she will be seen roaming around behind the scenes, meeting the circus stars and clowns as well as many of the animals.

Christmas brothers

ALL sorts of happy fancies streamed from the pen of A. A. Milne, of Winnie the Pooh fame. One of the oddest, perhaps, was that Santa Claus and Good King Wenceslas were brothers.

It came as something quite new the other day to Stanley Holloway, the jovial star of My Fair Lady. After dipping into the A. A. Milne book containing this startling theory, he got so excited that he wanted to pass the idea on to viewers. So recently he was tele-recorded doing his impressions of the Santa Claus-Good King Wenceslas partnership.

The item will be included in TV's Riverside One programme this Wednesday evening at 7.30.

REX PALMER, one of the original 'uncles' of BBC Children's Hour, will be seen with the boys and girls of Ashley Park School, Surrey, in this week's Sunday Special, on BBC Television.

The headmaster, Mr. Donald Davey, has been telling me why the title, Getting Ready for Christmas, is so suitable. Every year the pupils, aged between 7 and 11, take part in presenting the Christmas story. Each class has its own share in acting the drama of the shepherds at the stable in Bethlehem. Each classroom is decorated by the children themselves, and various old customs, including setting up the Christmas tree, are performed with due ceremony.

The other day BBC cameras filmed everything that went on while Rex Palmer read around taking notes. On Sunday he will be giving a 'live' commentary on the film, explaining the origin and meaning of the various customs.

"Uncle Rex," as he was known in 1922, is glad to be taking part in a children's programme almost 36 years to the day since Children's Hour began in Marconi House in the Strand, London.



Rex Palmer

I asked him how the programme was produced in those days.

"Produced?" exclaimed Rex. "It wasn't produced. We had no producer and no script. There were four of us 'uncles,' and we just gathered round a piano in an office which was screened from the outer world by hanging blankets."

"At the piano was Stanton Jeffries, called 'Uncle Jeff.' While he played for about five minutes we hurriedly ran through some story books and got an idea or two for filling up the half-hour."

The two other best-known characters were Uncle Arthur (Arthur Burrows) and Uncle Caractacus (Cecil Lewis).

Rex Palmer can still remember the hum of the radio transmitter. It was only on the other side of the passage.

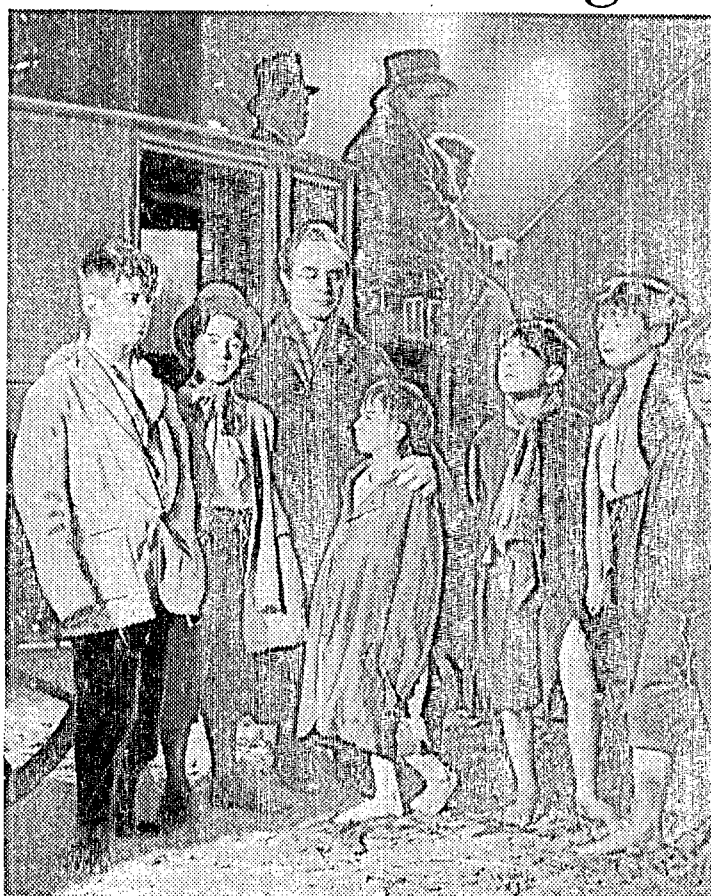
"Sometimes it went up in flames," said Rex. "That was a breakdown!"

Eurovision goes to the zoo

It will be early afternoon for us, but tea-time for animals in Switzerland and Germany, when the TV cameras take viewers to the Basle and Munich Zoos next Sunday afternoon at 2.35.

This half-hour Eurovision trip should be fun, for both Zoos are among the most famous in the world. Brian Johnston will be at Munich and Wynford Vaughan Thomas at Basle.

Dr Barnardo's great decision



FROM time to time in the Good Companions animal series the BBC cameras take us to Dr. Barnardo's Garden City at Woodford Bridge, Essex. I wonder, though, whether many viewers know much about Dr. Barnardo himself?

The story of the founder of the famous Children's Homes is to be told next Tuesday evening in a BBC Television documentary called Tom Barnardo.

The 90-minute programme will hinge upon the problem that faced the young doctor at a crisis in his career in 1866, when he was only 21. He wanted to be a medical missionary in China. Suddenly his plans were changed when, while studying in London, he accidentally discovered the plight of hundreds of homeless and destitute children, and in 1867 he opened the first of his Homes at Stepney Causeway. It remains the headquarters of Dr. Barnardo's Homes today.

Thomas Hare plays the young Barnardo, and the large cast will include Percy Marmont as the great philanthropist Lord Shaftesbury.

Dr. Barnardo (Thomas Hare) with some of his boys during filming at the Ealing studios

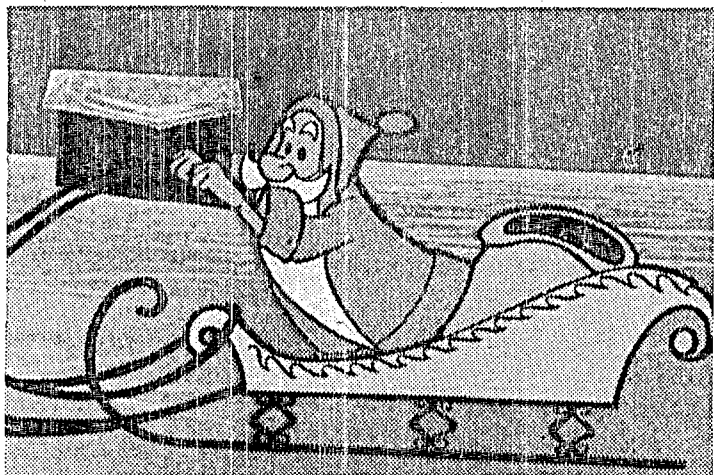
Two pictures for a Christmas treat

DURING your Christmas holidays, please do not miss a ten-minute colour cartoon called *The Christmas Visitor*. This is ten minutes of sheer enchantment which I think will delight every single member of the family.

It cost £10,000 and two years of tremendous patience by the artists working on this animated cartoon, which has been produced in Britain. It was highly praised

WALT DISNEY'S new adventure film is *The Sign of Zorro*, and, like *Robin Hood*, it is a story of a daring young man who risks his life to help the victims of oppression.

Don Diego arrives home in Los Angeles from school in Spain to find that the people are being unjustly treated by a scoundrel of a *comandante*. He thinks that open resistance to the tyranny would



Santa Claus, the ever-welcome Christmas Visitor

recently when shown at the San Francisco Film Festival.

The *Christmas Visitor* was inspired by a poem which a narrator speaks as the action unfolds. It is Christmas Eve, and Mother, Dad, and three children are asleep in their little house. Dad wakes up as he hears a welcome noise. It is Santa Claus arriving on his sleigh to give the children their Christmas toys.

Santa stuffs the children's stockings with gifts as they slumber on. Then he sits down to tackle a Christmas supper which Mum and Dad have thoughtfully provided. While he is busy tucking in, all the toys in his sack come to life.

There is the little musical shepherdess, a jolly Jack Tar in his ship, the Jack-in-the-Box, the wooden soldiers, the toy train, the helicopter, the crane. But St. Nicholas—Santa Claus—seems too busy with his wonderful supper to notice what is going on.

UP POPS THE VILLAIN

First, the shepherdess and the sailor-boy begin to exchange admiring glances, and then Jack-in-the-Box, the villain, pops out of his box. He, too, admires the little shepherdess, but because she will take no notice of him he carries her off, ties her to the toy railway track, and starts the toy engine. Of course, the sailor sets out to rescue her, while the toy soldiers parade and start to attack the wicked villain with their cannon.

Then Jack-in-the-Box gets really busy. Twirling his moustache, he jumps into a helicopter and, hovering over dauntless Jack Tar, tries to drop a bomb on him.

It is all done with such good humour and charm that you will find it one of the happiest entertainments of Christmas.

be quickly crushed, so Diego decides on a ruse. Pretending to be a timid student, incapable of using a sword, he deceives everybody into thinking that he is a coward.

But in the cloak and mask of Zorro he strikes by day and night. He rescues people unjustly imprisoned, and with a flashing blade defeats every evil plan of the *comandante*. There is dashing adventure and lots of stirring swordplay in this swift, exciting film.

Guy Williams makes a striking Zorro—handsome, agile, fearless—and Gene Sheldon plays his dumb servant who, by also pretending to be deaf, helps his master to restore law and order to Los Angeles. Britt Lomond, as the *comandante*, looks every inch a villain.

Once again Walt Disney has provided exciting entertainment for all of us to enjoy.



Zorro (Guy Williams) is captured by the evil *comandante* Monasterio (Britt Lomond)—a scene from *The Sign of Zorro*

ROBIN OF THE CHRISTMAS CARD

THE story of how the robin comes to be on our Christmas cards is a curious one. The habit of sending Christmas cards is itself little more than a hundred years old, but the robin has been a great favourite for a much longer time.

Six hundred years ago Geoffrey Chaucer wrote of the "tame ruddok" in his poem *The Parliament of Fowles*, using the old Anglo-Saxon name for the robin. Already, to quote a later poet, the robin had "found a warm corner in everyone's heart." The little red-breasted bird that so boldly and confidently came to be fed in cold weather was sure of a welcome from kind-hearted Britons.

I have to specify Britons for, alas, in the south of Europe, as the ornithologist David Lack has pointed out, at the season when we are feeding the robins, the robins are feeding Frenchmen, Italians, and other Mediterranean folk. No wonder Britain is the only country in Europe where the robin is tame.

"GARDEN REDSTART"

Over most of the Continent the robin is a shy woodland bird (wouldn't you be shy if somebody would want to eat you?), and its place in the garden is taken by the common redstart. The Germans indeed call it the "garden redstart," to distinguish it from the "house redstart," the bird which we call the black redstart.

Common redstarts very rarely seem to nest in gardens in Britain—the robins won't let them!—but the black redstart is beginning to take here the place it occupies in Germany, as the redstart that nests on ledges and in crannies on buildings.

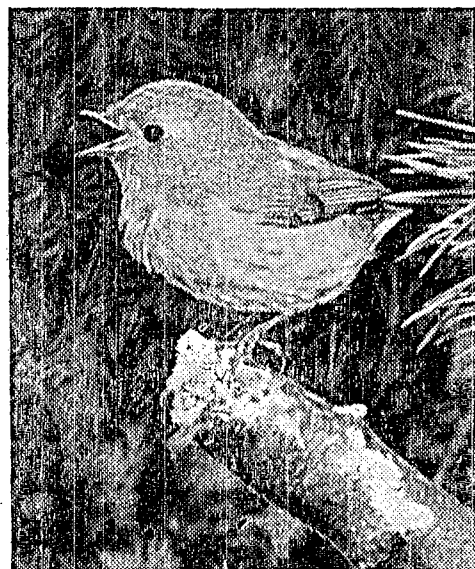
There is another curious link between the robin and the redstart. In Ancient Greece, they used to think that redstarts turned into robins in winter. And when you come to think of it, that doesn't really seem much more unlikely than the truth, which is that all the redstarts fly thousands of miles to spend the winter in

Africa, and are replaced by robins which have flown hundreds of miles from the icy north of Europe.

But I have got a long way from the Christmas cards where we started. The odd thing is that the real robin of the Christmas cards is the postman. If any of you have read Trollope's novels, you may remember that Jemima, the cook at Framley Parsonage, called out: "Come in, Robin postman, and warm theeself awhile!" And she was talking to the postman, not to the bird.

It was not until 1861 that postmen began to wear the dark blue uniform that is now so familiar. Before that they had red waistcoats, just like the robin. So what more natural then that the men with red breasts should be called robin, after the bird, and that then when people began to design Christmas cards that would be delivered by the robin men, they should put the robin bird on them as a symbol? At any rate, that is what seems to have happened.

This all arises out of that remarkable tameness of the robin bird, which will wait patiently



Our friend the Robin

John Markham

nearby while a gardener is digging the soil, in the hope of him turning up a worm. But just in case you get an inflated idea of your own importance in the robin's scheme of things, remember that he will do exactly the same with a mole, that other digger of the soil. Man and mole are all the same to robins; useful providers of worms.

RICHARD FITTER

Four weeks of adventure

The last few weeks have been crowded and exciting ones for 19-year-old Guy Harwood, of Pulborough, Sussex.

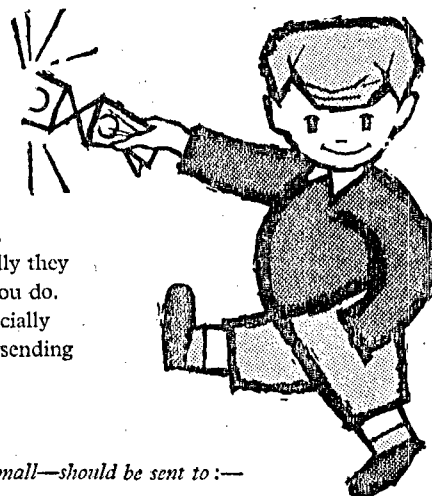
When Guy undertook the four weeks' tough adventure of one of the mountaineering and canoeing courses of the Outward Bound Trust at Ullswater in Cumberland, he thought little of his chances and certainly did not dream of the success he has now won in such convincing style.

From a field of 90 other competitors, Guy was the only one to be awarded honours in the general assessment which is made on each boy's performance. He also received honours in proficiency and skill and athletics.

Sponsored by the Duke of Edinburgh and designed for developing character, the course includes training and then trials in rock-climbing, map-reading, and route-finding.

Share your Christmas fun with me!

Not all boys and girls can spend Christmas in their own Homes with their families. As many as 7,500 children are cared for by Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Naturally they love Christmas as much as you do. Won't you help make it especially happy for them this year by sending a small present?



Your gift—whether large or small—should be sent to:—

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

8 BARNARDO HOUSE, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY, LONDON, E.1

NDH10620/A

CAVE-DWELLERS OF

In the modern go-ahead State of Turkey the people who live in cities are rightly proud of their up-to-date ways. But in the wild heart of the country there are still many who are content with a way of life that can have altered little in the last few hundred years. Among them is a strange community of cave-dwellers which was visited by a C N correspondent while he was with a film expedition.

I RECENTLY returned (he writes) from one of the world's strangest places, Orta Hisar in Central Turkey. To get there we left Ankara, the capital, by a slow, old train which clattered over the hot plains of Anatolia for a day and a night, making a noise like a whistling kettle to scare the goats off the line. This was followed by a six-hour drive in a rattletrap bus to a place where we hired a jeep for the final stretch.

As we bumped on squeaking springs over a steep rise, I saw Orta Hisar set in a wind-worn landscape of pink and grey rock and yellow earth. Square houses were huddled round a gigantic rock pinnacle towering hundreds of feet into the air. It was a Stone Age skyscraper, honey-combed with tunnels and caves in which people have lived since prehistoric times. Even today villagers dwell in the lower caverns.

WELCOME IN ENGLISH

As I wandered in the twisting alleyways of the village, I heard a voice behind me ask: "Would you like to see the girls making carpets?"

Surprised to hear my own language, I jumped round to see a boy of about ten, very brown and solemn. He told me his name was Rasit Yural, and he could speak a little English because his elder brother was taking lessons by mail from Istanbul.

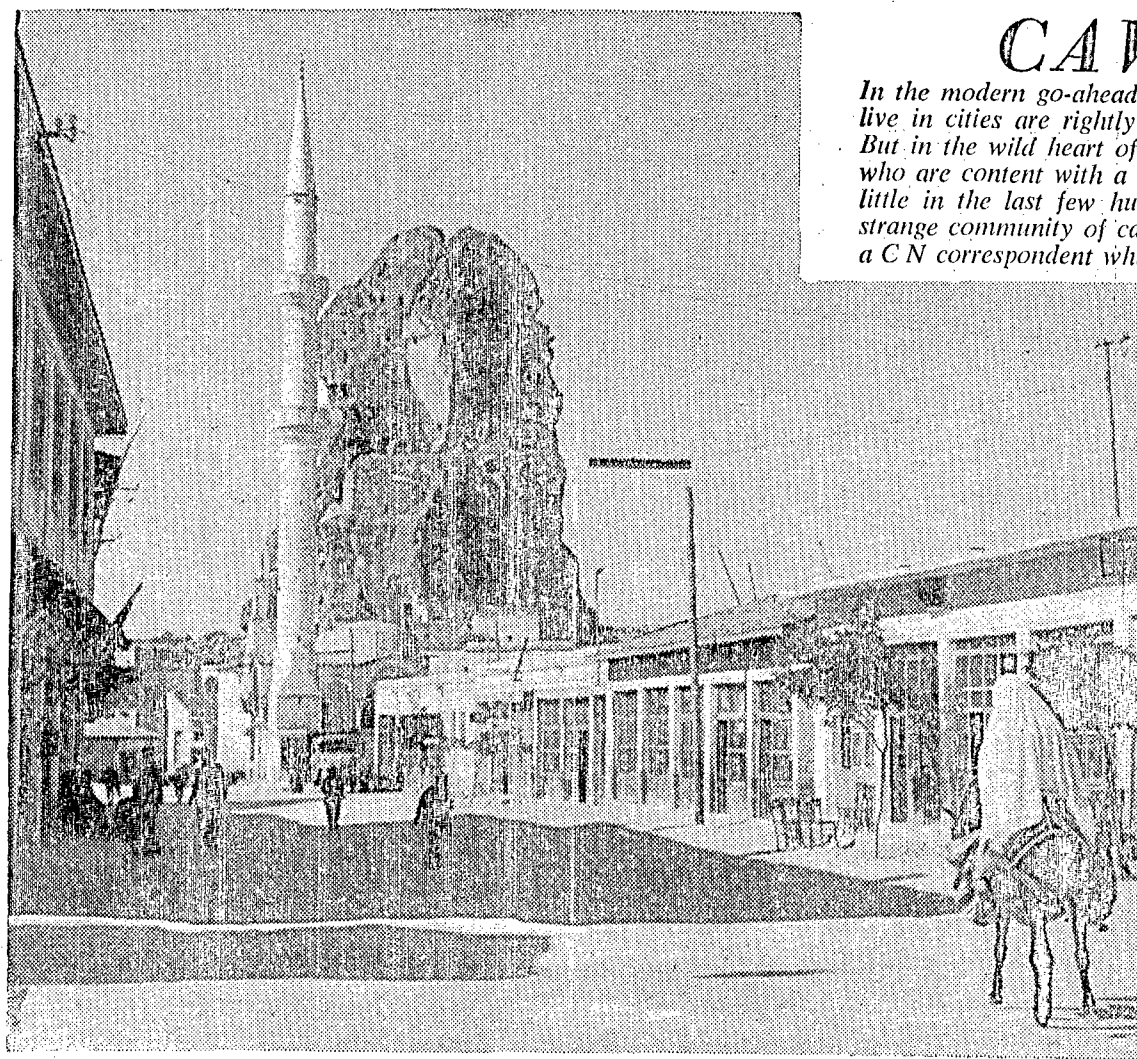
Happy to be practising his English, he took me to a courtyard where three girls in traditional dress were sitting cross-legged before a magnificent half-finished rug stretched on a rough frame.

Their hands moved in blurs of speed as they wove the gaudy handspun wool and, with razor-sharp knives, trimmed it to length.

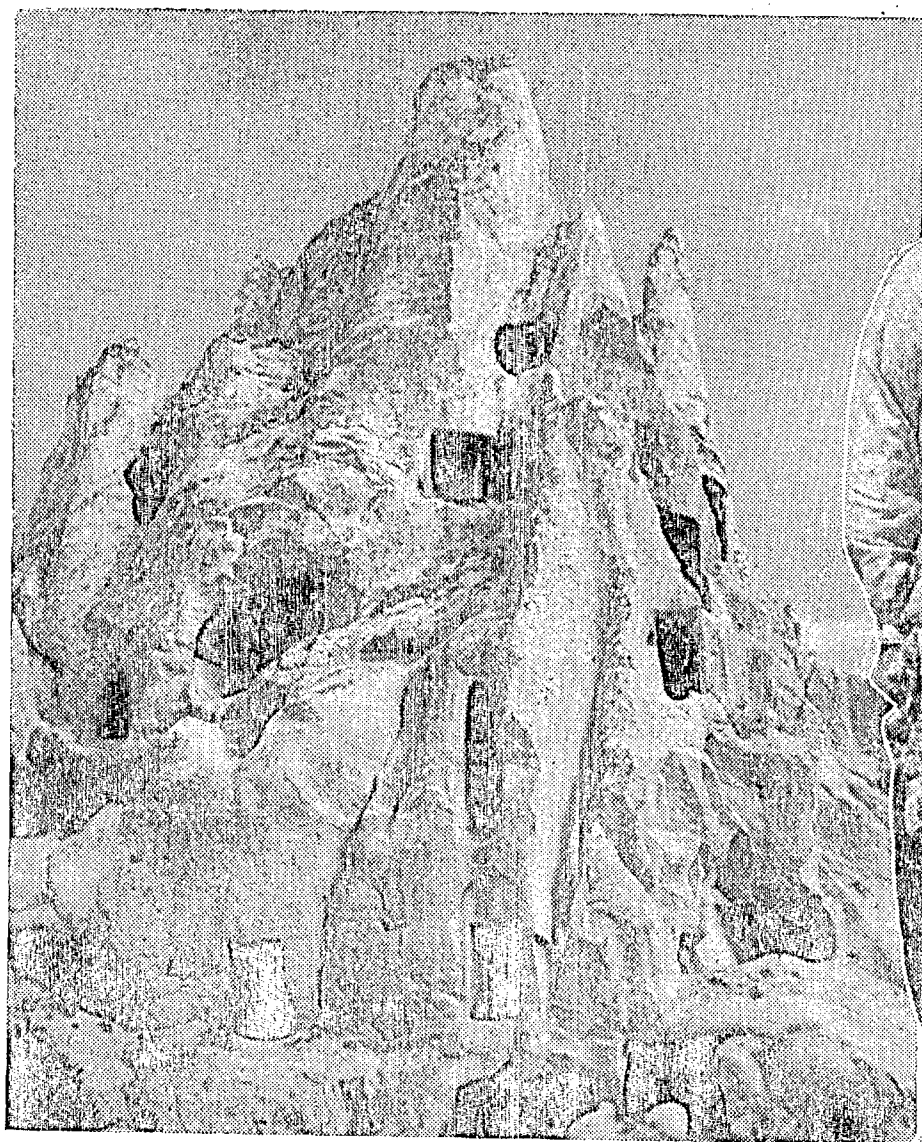
Rasit told me that it took a year to teach a girl the art. Three girls have to work hard for four months to make one rug which would be sold some day to tourists for about £80.

Rasit added that his family was one of the many in Orta Hisar who lived in a cave and then led me down a dizzy path to see his home in a cliff by a stream. A long time ago his great-great-grandfather had carved it out of the rock. There were windows, and steps leading up to the door as in an ordinary house, but the rest was a cool and comfortable cave, which naturally never needed any paint or repairs.

Through the doorway I could see Rasit's mother preparing the favourite meal of kababs (pieces of mutton or goat meat roasted on a skewer) over a charcoal brazier. In the background, Rasit's baby



A great rock, pitted with cave dwellings, rises higher than the spire of the minaret



There is room for a dozen families in this hollowed crag



Young village girl, and her elder sisters at a carpet loom



Lads of the village

December 20, 1958

A TURKISH VILLAGE



side a cave house



Early Christian wall paintings exposed by a landslide

brother lay in a cradle swinging on four cords from the rock roof.

The next day we set out on donkeys to film and explore the nearby Valley of Goreme, and Rasit came along as a guide. We passed children queuing at the village fountain with big earthen pitchers for water to make glasses of sweet, milkless tea.

Our donkeys were small but amazingly sturdy, and we sat on big wooden saddles padded with coloured cloth. Mine seemed inclined to bolt every few minutes until Rasit gave it a telling-off in Turkish.

FAVOURITE GAME

As we travelled in the 100-degree heat, he told me that the favourite game of the local boys was football. They learned how to play at the small modern school overlooking the age-old village.

"When I am a man I want to be a professional football player," he went on. "Someday I may even play for Turkey."

From time to time he ran off

to pick small green apples. He seemed to enjoy them, but I found them hard and sour, and to be polite stored them in my pockets until Rasit was not looking.

We gazed spellbound when we reached the valley we had come so far to see. With its white undercliff and strangely twisted rocks, it was what I should imagine a valley on the moon would look like. Everywhere we looked were the mouths of caves.

Over a thousand years ago Christian monks came to this place to hew out churches for themselves, just as the people of Orta Hisar carved homes. No one knows much about these holy men, but it seems that each one made it his ambition to have his own special church. There are 320 of these churches and chapels in this amazing valley.

With Rasit I explored them. Some were only the size of bedrooms, others were large enough to hold perhaps 200. They had altars, fonts, crypts, pillars, and domed ceilings like ordinary

churches, and these walls were painted with religious scenes which are as vivid today as when they were painted so many centuries ago.

I climbed a cliff to explore one; but, just as I was about to scramble into the dark interior, the ledge crumbled and I went slipping down the steep slope, terrified my camera would be smashed. Luckily, a wiry bush in a crevice saved me.

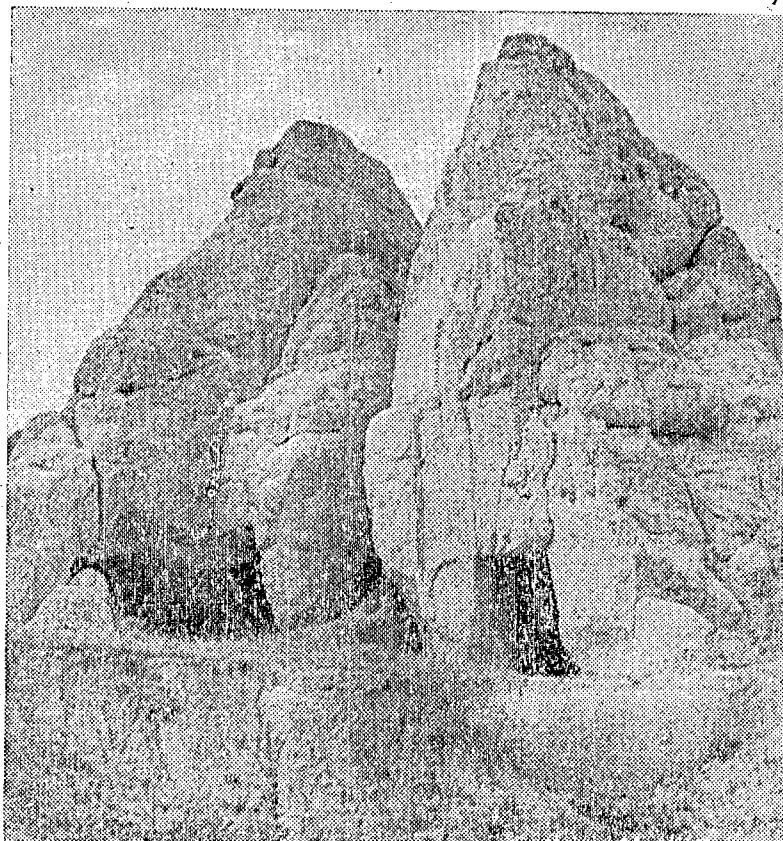
RASIT WAVES GOODBYE

Our party spent several days in this area before we finally had to leave Orta Hisar and its simple but friendly peasants.

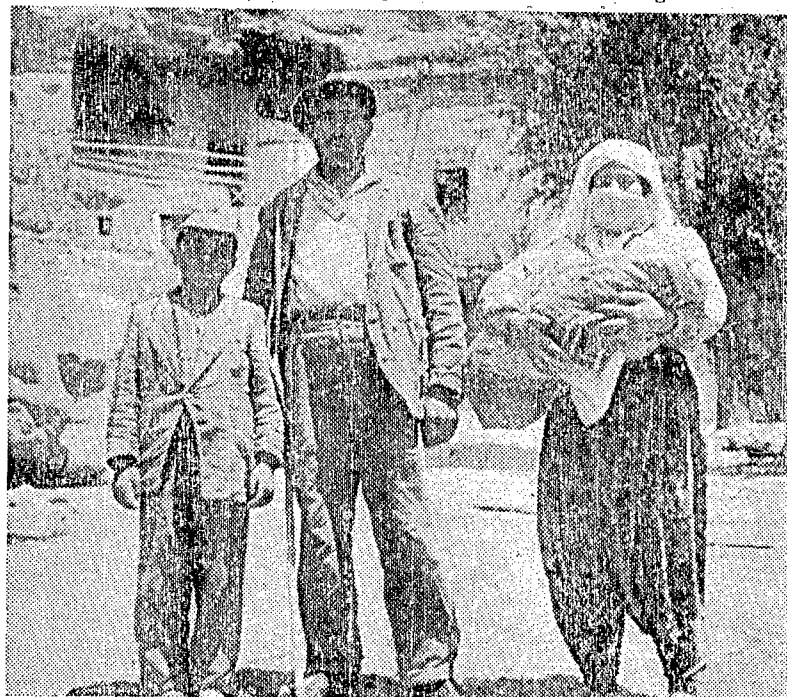
As our jeep roared off in clouds of pumice dust, I saw Rasit waving goodbye. I thought how different his life was from that of English boys: he had never seen a television set, a train, or a cinema, and yet he seemed perfectly happy.

Let us hope that some day he does play football for Turkey.

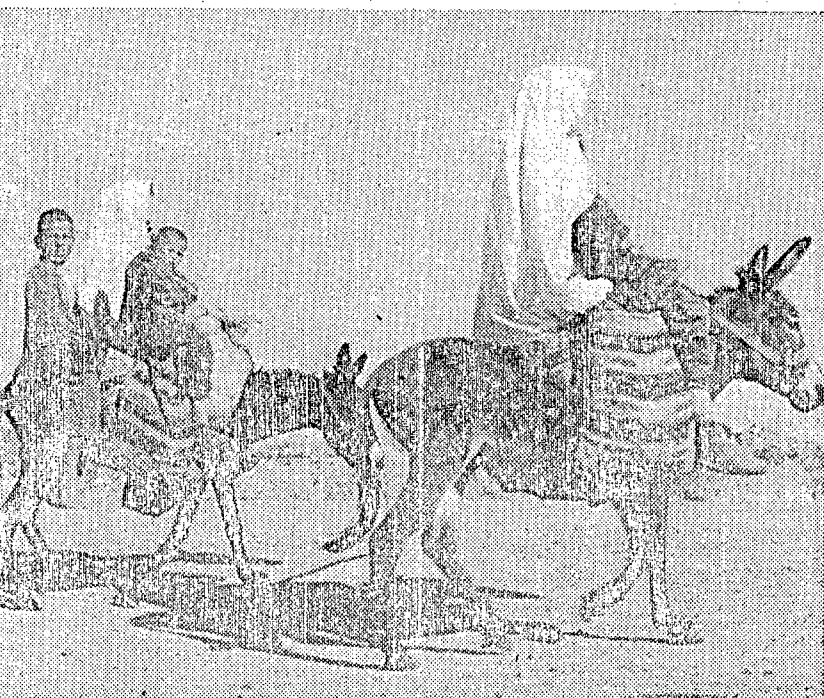
MARC ALEXANDER



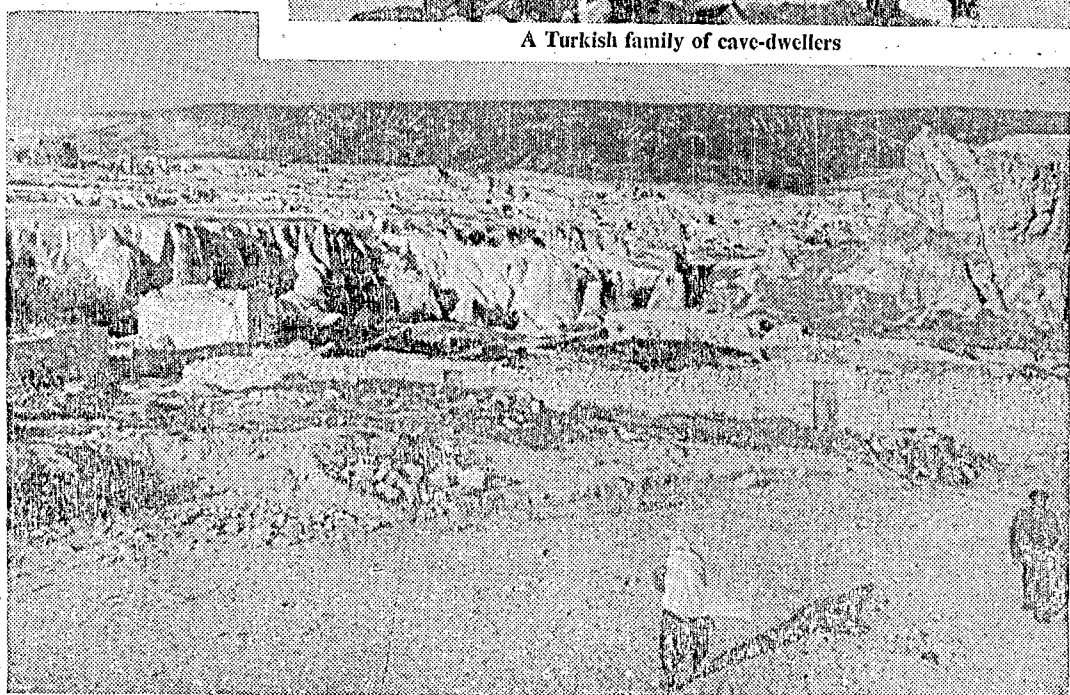
Entrances to Christian chapels hollowed out centuries ago



A Turkish family of cave-dwellers



Off to work in the fields. The woman on the left takes her sons with her



The desolate, rocky landscape surrounding the Turkish village of Orta Hisar

WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO

Unusual answer to unusual problem

AN unusual problem which has been puzzling keepers in the London Zoo's insect house has now found an equally unorthodox solution.

"The problem concerned some giant land snails which we received from West Africa some months ago," said Overseer George Ashby. "We noticed the other day that some of them were getting the top parts of their shells damaged. We found that one of the snails had had babies, and these were climbing on to the backs of the adults, and rasping away at the shell, presumably in an effort to get calcium, a chemical necessary for their development.

"We decided to experiment. We placed pieces of cuttlefish (a well-known source of calcium) in the cage, in the hope that this would appease the baby snails. Fortunately, it seems to have done so, and the baby snails are now leaving their long-suffering elders alone."

Companion for the quail

A colourful bird just arrived at the London Zoo is a Chinese painted quail, gift from a Norwich farmer, Mr. Philip Wayre. And its arrival has solved a problem for the Zoo authorities.

"For some time past we have had a lonely female and were unable to provide her with a suitable mate, the species being rather rare in this country," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "But while staying at Mr. Wayre's farm last September I found just the bird we were looking for. Mr. Wayre keeps numerous birds as a hobby, including owls and falcons. He also has a number of exotic game-birds, and in one of his aviaries he has a pair of these painted quail which bred a family during the summer. Among them was a very nice young cock bird,

which Mr. Wayre has now sent us. It is a beautiful bird with a brown back, slaty-blue 'vest,' black-and-white face, and yellow legs.

"We last bred this rare species some years ago, and now hope to do so again, possibly next year," Mr. Yealland added. "When first hatched, quail chicks are extremely small, and the last time we had some we had to keep the whole family in a special pen, or the young quail would have run out through the mesh of the aviary wires."

Giant chameleons for America

A pair of Meller's giant chameleons, each over 15 inches long, have just left the Zoo for the U.S.A. They have gone to the Reptile Institute at Silver Springs, Florida.

"The chameleons, which we received recently from Nyasaland, are specially wanted by the Institute for breeding purposes," said Overseer R. A. Lanworn, of the reptile section. "It is extremely rare for these large chameleons, which lay eggs, to breed in captivity—we have never managed it at Regent's Park. But it should be possible in the warm sunshine of Florida."

Moving animals is a long job

For some years now the zoo nearest to Glasgow has been Calderpark, which many visitors reached by means of a tramway service. Now, the corporation propose to close down this tram service, so plans are being considered to transfer the whole of the Calderpark collection to Glasgow itself.

The idea is to move it to a site in one of the city's public parks—probably Rouken Glen—which has 135 well-wooded acres. If the plans are approved, the removal of the zoo will start next year and be gradually completed over a period of months.

The school swaps its reptiles

An interesting exchange was recently made between the Zoo and the County Secondary School at Rye, Sussex. For three reptiles, which included a small African python, and some Australian lizards, the Zoo has sent a consignment of tropical insects.

"The reptiles had been used at the school for instructional purposes," an official said. "The insects, which are wanted for the same purpose, included many stick-insects, cockroaches, and some South American apple-snails. These are so-called because, when seen in water, they resemble floating apples. We sent three pairs of these snails to the school in the hope that one of them, at least, will produce egg-clusters. Incidentally," added the official, "we also sent a couple of large bird-eating spiders with the consignment. One of them was sent to us last summer, having been found at a London fruit market as a 'stow-away' among bananas."

Craven Hill

School at seven in the morning

School life used to be a great deal tougher than it is today. For example, take King James's School at Almondbury, Huddersfield, which has been celebrating the 350th anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter.

Self-help was evidently highly thought of in those days and it has been recalled that when this fine old Yorkshire school was founded the boys had to "rub and cleanse the desks, make the fires, and sweep the Schole." Little wonder that school started at seven in the morning and, after a two-hour lunch break, went on until five o'clock.

It was also laid down in the statutes that the master must not permit "sending for Ale, Wine, or other strong liquors into the Schole, or at Schole times, unless when the Governors visit the said Schole, or when the boys break up Schole for Christmas." He also had to prevent boys, wherever they might be, from "swearing, cursing, lying, strife, or any rude or irreverent behavior."

Kim the collector



At Exeter Central Station a golden Labrador called Kim has collected £7000 in six years for the Southern Railway's Orphanage. He is seen with his owner, Mr. J. Bovett and a young contributor.

Tannin versus Tarnish

Some five years ago, an article in the CN described how the excavation of Roman knives, keys, and horseshoes at Hungate, Yorkshire, had put scientists on the track of a new means of overcoming rust. Experts suggested that tannin, from fragments of leather buried with these objects, had stopped corrosion and so preserved the iron for over a thousand years, for Roman ironwork found at Chew Stoke, Somerset, a year or so later, had been kept free from rust in the same way.

So when the Big Ben tower of Parliament was renovated and repaired 18 months ago, the iron work was treated with a tannin extract. Recent inspection of this work revealed that the treatment had been most successful.

If the promise of this new treatment is fulfilled it could save this country several million pounds every year.

Giraffe growing up

Sally, one of the London Zoo's giraffes, is over twelve feet tall but she still keeps on growing. And as our picture shows, when her keeper wants to check on Sally's growth he has to use a ladder.



HEREWARD THE WAKE—picture-version of Charles Kingsley's tale of Saxon England (11)



Hoping to confirm the information he had gleaned from the "witches," Hereward rode to William's headquarters. He tethered his horse outside the king's house, and entered the kitchen, offering his pots for sale. But the Norman scullions made game of him, and tried to pluck out his beard. He knocked one of them down and then they all set on him. He seized a big roasting spit and defended himself doughtily.



More men rushed in and overpowered Hereward. They dragged him upstairs before William and accused him of assaulting the king's servants. William disbelieved their story, and upbraided them for ill-treating his English subjects. Hereward smiled, and the king noted that he understood French. He told Hereward to roll up his sleeve, then remarked: "Potters do not carry sword-scars."



William said this potter reminded him of Hereward, and he went on that he would make that valiant rebel lord of rich lands if only he would submit. The "potter" pretended not to understand. The king ordered him to be locked up for the present. Hereward was shut in an outhouse, and later a man came there to shackle him. Hereward kicked the fellow over, and dashed out.



The offer of rich lands if he submitted had tempted Hereward, but he resolved to stand by his followers. At Ely they prepared for a second attack. This time the Normans built a better bridge with a wooden tower at the end for Taillebois' "witch" to stand on and curse the English. As the Normans prepared for their second attack, Torfrida had the idea of setting fire to the dry reeds in the river.

Will the blazing reeds set fire to the bridge? See next week's instalment

A new series about men who take their lives in their hands

LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By Garry Hogg

I. THE TEST PILOT

Chapter 4

THE first man to fly a plane faster than sound, to pierce the "sound barrier," was an American Air Force pilot, Charles Yeager, known to his friends as "Chuck."

Long before he accomplished this feat, in 1947, it was assumed by experts that to fly at the speed of sound, or in excess of it, would be to encounter hazards which it would be impossible to guard against until they had once been experienced. This barrier was envisaged as something almost tangible: flying men referred to it picturesquely as "the brick wall in the sky." What every flying man wanted to know was: what lies on the other side of "the brick wall in the sky"?

Charles Yeager was the man

quick-release shackles. But the human element had to be allowed for, too.

The routine of detaching the small aircraft from its parent aircraft was worked over, on ground-level, time and time again, to ensure that nothing could possibly go wrong with the inter-communication system, the quick-release shackles, and other parts of the mechanism. The little X-1 looked, as she clung beneath the belly of the great bomber, like a child's toy. The inner pair of the giant four-bladed propellers, when they spun, came so close to her that it seemed almost as if they were trying to cut off her long tapering nose. Each of the four blades was longer than the diameter of the X-1's fuselage, into which Charles Yeager had to fit as closely as a walnut in its shell.

ground-control and with observers flying aircraft at differing heights around the perimeter of the air-space in which he was to make his attempt to crash the sound barrier.

But even at that, it is not difficult to imagine the tremendous sense of stress that he must have felt as the moment for the experiment drew near. And isolation, too. He was now on his own. Every action he took, every slightest movement, must be timed to a split-second. All his senses had to be preternaturally alert. When he had given the O.K. for the count-down, and had heard the bomber pilot's voice—"ten . . . nine . . . eight; . . . three . . . two . . . one . . ."—he must be ready not only to hear the releasing of the shackles that bound him to the bigger plane, he must actually feel them open.

Immediate readiness

Hanging there, in his midge cockpit, in the shadow of the giant B-29, he must be ready on the instant that his plane was released to switch on his powerful jets, peel away clear of the bomber, and roar up to 35,000 feet, which had been predetermined as being the best height for his attempt.

Yeager's actual account of his successful attempt to pierce the sound barrier is as laconic, as unemotional, as pilots' reports always seem to be. In far less time even than it takes to read these words, he had given the O.K., had heard the count-down, had felt the shackles released, had switched on his jets, and roared clear of the B-29. With full power on, he roared to 35,000 feet.

Of all the instruments on his crowded panel there was only one in which he was really interested from then onwards. This was the "Mach Counter." Mach 1 is the speed of sound. On flight after flight during the long period he spent on the famous Muroc Air Force Base in California, trying out planes, he had watched their Mach Counters; watched the dial record in decimal points his approach nearer and nearer to the speed of sound. He had recorded .85, .88, .93, .95, .96; and that was as near as he had come to the magic figure of Mach 1.

High above a lake

Now, having reached a height of 35,000 feet and a little more, he hung over Muroc Dry Lake, invisible in the heat haze to all except those with powerful field-glasses. He had full power on. His eyes glued to his Mach Counter, he saw the figure .97 reached; he saw the figure .98 reached. And then, he said, he gave his jets all they could take; it was now or never. And, to his astonishment, the needle of his Mach Counter went, as he described it, "screwy." He re-

ported back to the base by radio that it was acting as it had never acted before; there must be something wrong with it, he said. It had better be looked at when he came down, and he would have another try.

A second try, however, was not necessary—at any rate, so far as breaking through the sound barrier was concerned. For it was perfectly clear what had happened to the Mach Counter. Its so-called "screwy" behaviour was simply the behaviour of a delicate instrument which had been called upon to record a figure never before recorded.

In fact, Charles Yeager had achieved a speed of Mach 1.05: a tiny fraction greater than actual speed of sound! He was the first man to have passed through the sound barrier.

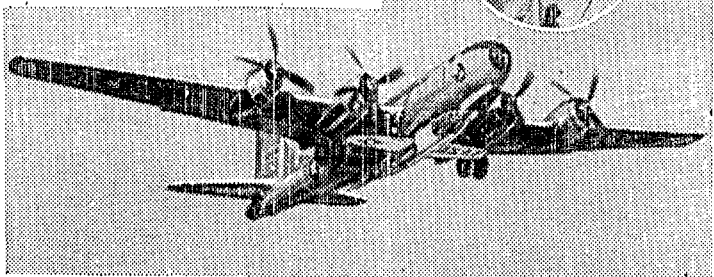
He was not content with that performance, great as it was. He later took into the air a successor to the little X-1 in which he had passed the sound barrier. In this, the X-1A, he achieved a speed of

over 1600 miles an hour, at a height nearly twice that at which he had flown before. Possibly because of a failure in his oxygen equipment, or because the quantity he would need at that height had been wrongly calculated, he blacked-out. His plane dropped something like a thousand feet a second for the greater part of a minute, before he came to and got her under control.

Experiences of this kind would destroy the nerve of any but the most perfectly trained, co-ordinated, and balanced of men, even among pilots. But the tradition among these men is that when such things happen they at once take the plane up again and try to reproduce some, at any rate, of the conditions in which the near-disaster occurred. Only in that way can they determine the causes; and only if they know the causes is there any chance whatsoever of eradicating them and thus making flight safer.

(Next week Garry Hogg writes about the steeplejack.)

Charles Yeager, and the huge B-29 bomber carrying the Bell X-1A aircraft in which he flew at more than twice the speed of sound



selected to find out; and the machine he was to use was the little X-1, which was believed to have sufficient speed to pass through the barrier—what came to be known to everyone as "supersonic speed."

The main problem confronting the designers and constructors was that of providing storage for sufficient fuel to enable the little X-1 to climb to a height where the attempt could be made, and then to attain the speed of sound, about 660 miles an hour at 36,000 feet. She was so small that there literally was not room to store the fuel, and to add extra fuel tanks, even if they could be jettisoned when empty, would be to ruin her streamlining.

Adapting a giant

The problem was solved by adapting a giant four-engined bomber, the B-29, in such a way that it could carry the little X-1, strapped beneath it, to the requisite height, after which she would be released for her record-breaking attempt. The mere mechanics of fastening a tiny jet-propelled plane beneath the vast bulk of a four-engined bomber were quite simple: it was just a matter of sufficient strong webbing and foolproof

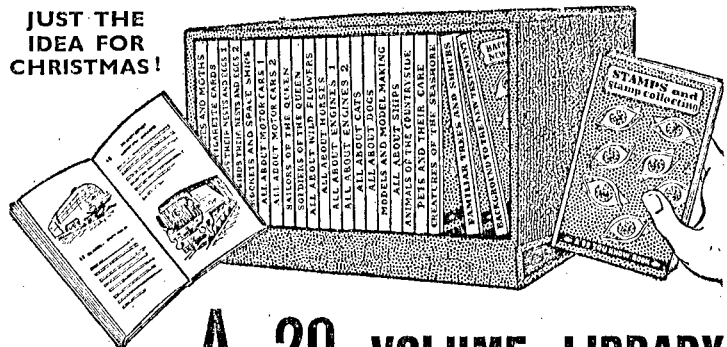
Worst moment

He said afterwards that that, in fact, was the worst moment of the whole test. It is no mean undertaking to transfer from one plane to another, even when they are as closely linked together as the B-29 and the little X-1, at a speed of 250 m.p.h. and a height of 20,000 feet.

Once in his cockpit he had to act quickly. Oxygen to be checked, helmet and mask adjusted, and oxygen switched on. R.T. to be plugged in and tested. Instrument-panel to be checked yet again, even though it had been checked and counterchecked before the twin planes left the runway. Yeager was, of course, in contact with the pilot of the bomber immediately overhead, and also with

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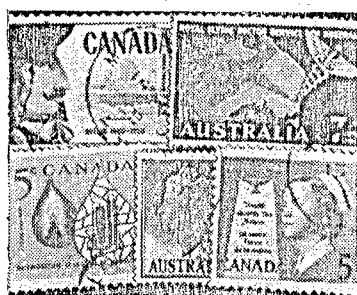
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THE WORLD OF STAMPS

THE little town of Christkindl, in Upper Austria, has become world-famous in recent years. Each Christmas a temporary post office is opened there and many thousands of people all over the world send their Christmas cards to be mailed from it. They do this because the post office uses a specially designed postmark on all its mail, and as the word "Christkindl" is German for "The Christ Child," it is particularly appropriate for Christmas greetings.



This year Austria has also issued a special stamp for Christmas. Its design shows the lovely church of Christkindl, which was built early in the eighteenth century.

Dark blue in colour, the stamp is one of a series depicting gems of Austrian architecture.

Two special Christmas stamps are also being issued in Cuba, and Christmas charity stamps portraying St. Vincent de Paul, who helped poor French children three centuries ago, and Henri Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross, have already appeared in France. With all these new addi-

tions a fine collection of stamps associated with Christmas can easily be assembled.

ANOTHER beautiful Christmas stamp design comes from Australia. It shows Joseph and Mary with the Infant Jesus and the shepherds who have come to worship Him. Above them shines the Christmas star which guided the Wise Men to the lowly stable at Bethlehem. Two stamps, 31d. red and 4d. purple, were issued in this design on November 5, so that collectors who receive Christmas mail from Australia will be seeing them soon.



IF you ask a farmer whether he has ever seen a Moldavian Bull, he will probably look puzzled, unless he also happens to be a stamp collector. A Moldavian Bull is the nickname given by collectors to the first stamps issued in Moldavia, one of the two Turkish provinces—Wallachia was the other—which, almost a century ago, were united to form the kingdom of Rumania.

These early Moldavian stamps were crudely produced (without

perforations) on a hand-printing press; and their design shows a bull's head, hence the nickname. So few were issued that they are now very rare. However, the Rumanian Post Office celebrated the 75th anniversary of its first stamps by issuing seven special ones in 1932. Two of them reproduced the Moldavian Bull and are still reasonably cheap.

Recently collectors have had another opportunity to obtain a Moldavian Bull, for Rumania has now issued a set of eight stamps to mark the centenary of the first Bulls, and on some of them the original design is again reproduced. On another is shown the



printer of 1858 at work with his hand press. He would surely have felt flattered if he had known that the strange little stamps he printed would be so popular 100 years later.
C. W. HILL

Young detectives in the countryside

Will this be a good winter for the red and grey squirrels? Are otters growing more abundant? Has ragwort declined since rabbits became fewer?

Members of school natural history clubs in many parts of Britain are finding the answers to these and many other questions. As long ago as 1954, for instance, many schoolboy observers noticed that there were few sweet chestnuts for them to eat that autumn, little beechmast in the woods, and far fewer acorns than usual. A few months later they became aware of a fall in the grey squirrel population.

SCARCITY OF NUTS

Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture pointed out that these facts might well be connected. Because of the scarcity of nuts in the English woodlands, few squirrels bred in the cold wet spring of 1955, and the population fell by nearly two-thirds.

Since then the squirrels have increased a little, according to many young naturalists. But how they will fare this winter largely depends upon the size of the woodland harvest.

Young naturalist detectives at Lewes County Grammar School report fairly frequent meetings with otters in the Sussex Weald. This has usually occurred when the observers were quietly fishing. There is much evidence that these attractive animals, which thrive in almost all the English rivers and are numerous in Scotland and parts of Wales, have increased in number since the War.

What of the ragwort? Members

of a Naturalists' Club in a secondary modern school in Sussex recently reported fewer clumps in the fields and, especially, on the road-side verges. The reason? Possibly because fewer rabbits means less scratching of the soil and so more competition from other plants.

School natural history clubs may build up a really comprehensive picture of the wild life of the area. A young naturalist from Barcombe, in East Sussex, reported that a flight of six mute swans, Britain's biggest bird, had been seen at a certain time flying northwards up the Ouse Valley. A second naturalist in the village of Fletching, four miles away, and a

member of the same club, reported seeing the swans over his parish a few minutes later.

Again, movements of fieldfares, families of stoats, or small gangs of grey squirrels—and there is evidence that such movements do occur at times—may all be noticed and recorded by the growing numbers of young naturalists in Britain.

Club-members in some of the new schools are keeping watch for invading plants and animals of all kinds which may colonise the school grounds. In this way future pupils will inherit a complete record of the ever-changing plant and animal life of their school district.



Packing up the villagers

A young enthusiast helps in packing up the population of Bekonscot model village at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. The little figures have been repainted after a busy summer with many visitors and are being put away for the winter.

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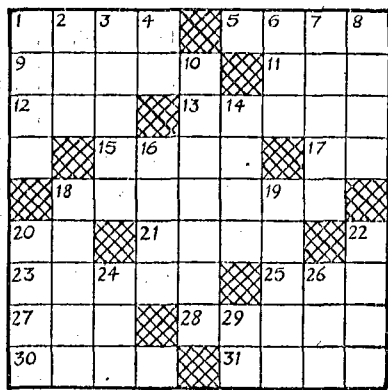
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PUZZLE PARADE



Answer next week

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Melodies. 5 Mixture of fog and smoke. 9 It runs through your body. 11 Night bird. 12 Cambridgeshire town. 13 German river. 15 Region. 17 Early English. 18 Emptied. 20 Perform. 21 Electrical units. 23 Avoid. 25 Stamped, addressed envelope. 27 Fresh. 28 Cook in an oven or over a fire. 30 "Woodman, spare that ——" 31 Ditch.

READING DOWN. 1 Aid. 2 Ailing. 3 Regal. 4 Thus. 6 Ministry of Information. 7 Possessed. 8 Merriment. 10 Unpractical person. 14 Musical instrument. 16 Peruse. 18 Lid. 19 Composition. 20 Depression. 22 Distribute. 24 Reverence. 26 Request. 29 Overdrawn.

JUMBLED CAPITALS

The capitals of five European countries are given in a jumbled form. Can you sort them out?

STERMAMAD, Moer, Negeenoaph, Solnib, Holstomek.

A BIT MIXED

These eight words look strange, but they are simply the names of animals—with the syllables mixed. Can you sort them out?

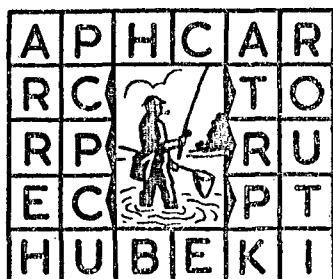
ANTEDROME; tidary; lopekey; girger; ratah; monaffe; zebmel; cachee.

MAKE THESE CRAFT

Each of the short phrases below can be rearranged to give the name of a river or sea-going craft.

IF GREAT BARM IN USE
SEE TRAM SORE CAT
NO ACE BITE LOAF

CATCH THESE FISH



THERE are six varieties of fish hidden here. To find them, start at the letters which are on each side of the picture and move to an adjacent square, in any direction, until the word is complete.

STUFFING THE TURKEY



By sorting out the jumbled words you will find the names of eleven items of Christmas fare.

WORD SQUARE

NUMBER before ten.
Popular if cake is,
To want.
Small whirlpool.

LUCKY DIP

KNOWING GNU

THERE was a most knowing young gnu,
Who always said: "How do you do?"

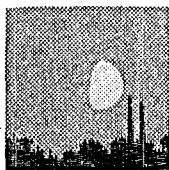
And he smiled all the while
Such a heavenly smile
That he turned every head at the Zoo.

CAT'S COMPLAINT

THEY'VE dressed me in a hat
No self-respecting cat
Would ever choose to wear—
They've wrapped me in a gown
Made from an eiderdown,
Hiding my own smooth fur.
They've sat me on this chair
And told me not to stir,
In case I spoil my dress—
And what my friends will say
If they should pass this way
I dare not even guess!

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Mars is in the south and Venus is low in the south-west. In the morning Jupiter is low in the south-east. Our picture shows the Moon as it will appear at half-past eight in the evening of Saturday, December 20.



BILLY'S CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

BILLY was looking rather serious. Christmas was only a few days off, and he was racking his brains to think of a present for Mummy and Daddy. The trouble was his money box was quite empty.

Then, at tea time, Daddy was reading the paper. Suddenly he exclaimed. "Look at that! Fancy paying £5000 for a portrait like that. I could do better myself."

So could I, thought Billy as he glanced over Daddy's shoulder at the weird-looking painting supposed to be of a man's head.

Billy's eyes lit up. That was it. He would give Mummy and Daddy a picture of himself. After all, if the painting in the paper was worth £5000, then his must be worth something, too.

After tea he set to work in his room, and before it was time for bed he had finished the portrait. He sat back and admired it. But there was something wrong about it. Ah, of course. It needed a frame.

He looked at the pictures in his room, but they were not the right size. Then he remembered the old picture in the hall. The frame on that was just right.

It did not take long to slip quietly downstairs, unfasten the picture, and put his portrait into the frame instead. Now it looked like a real painting.

He carefully hid the picture under some clothes in his wardrobe, and tossed the old painting in his toy box. When Mummy came up a little later to put him to bed there was no sign of all his work. What a surprise she would get on Christmas Day!

But Mummy got her surprise long before that, for while Billy was asleep Daddy noticed that the painting was missing.

"Have you seen that painting that was in the hall?" he asked next morning when Billy woke up.

"Er, well . . . as a matter of fact it is in my toy box."

"What!" Daddy rushed to the box and lifted out the undamaged painting.

"It was to be a Christmas surprise," explained Billy. "I was going to give you a new picture of me to replace that old one."

"Old one!" echoed Daddy. "I paid £25 for that picture." Then he saw Billy's crestfallen face as he lifted out his own painting. "Why, it's just as good as this old one," he went on. "Mummy will be pleased. I tell you what we'll do. I'll get another frame and we'll hang them up side by side. How's that?"

"That's a good idea," said Billy. But he didn't really think so. How anyone could think that the old painting was as good as his new one he simply did not know.

JACKO AND CO. GO CAROL-SINGING



Jacko felt it was an ideal night for carol singing, just the sort of night, as he put it, "on which good King Wenceslas looked out." "Come on," he said to Chimp, "let's go out. And we'll have our songs on the air," he added with a grin. Wondering what Jacko meant, Chimp followed him to the end of the garden; and there he saw the balloon which Jacko had borrowed "at great personal expense" from a local store. So with Bouncer they rose to rooftop height, and drifted along as their singing filled the air. "Goodness me," exclaimed Professor Pongo as he heard carols seemingly coming from the skies. Throwing open his window, he saw Jacko and Chimp just as they reached the line "Brightly shone the moon that night!" "Very good, indeed," cried the Professor, "drop in later and there will be something for you."

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Jumbled capitals. Amsterdam, Rome, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Stockholm. Catch question. One eats too long and the other longs to eat. A bit mixed. Ante-lope; drone-dary; tiger; monkey; giraffe; zeb-ra; em-mel; chee-tah. Make these craft. Frigate; steamer; canoe; submarine; coaster; lifeboat. Stuffing the turkey. Goose; turkey. Word square. mince-pie; chicken; almonds; NINE fruit cake; plum pudding; ICE D apple sauce; raisins; trifle; NEE D stuffing. Catch these fish. EDDY Carp, perch, chub, trout, roach, pike.

JUST A FEW WORDS

1. C. Munificent means magnificently generous. (From Latin munificentia, bountifulness, generosity.)
2. C. A vendetta is a persistent quarrel or feud between families or clans. (An Italian word, from Latin vindicta, revenge.)
3. A. Comatose means in a state of drowsy stupor. (From Greek komia, deep sleep.)
4. A. Arable means ploughed, or fit for ploughing. (From Latin arabilis—fit to be ploughed.)
5. B. Sentient means capable of sensation. (Latin sentientem, perceiving by the senses.)
6. B. A sinecure is a position or rank with few or no duties. (From Latin sine, without, and cura, care.)

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in *italics*. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers are in column 5

- I intend to be *munificent*.
A—Resisting all attacks.
B—Splendid in appearance.
C—Lavish with my generosity.
- A *vendetta* is in progress.
A—Bargains for sale.
B—A gay carnival.
C—A quarrel between families.
- She always seemed *comatose*.
A—In a drowsy stupor.
B—A friendly person.
C—So neat and attractive.
- This is *arable* land.
A—Ploughed and cultivated.
B—Public property.
C—A parched desert.
- Insects are *sentient* creatures.
A—Always on the look-out.
B—Have the senses of sight, touch, etc.
C—Make my flesh creep.
- This job is a *sinecure*.
A—Special responsibility.
B—Not much work.
C—A tremendous nuisance.



MCC TEAM FOR SOUTH AMERICA

ANOTHER team of M.C.C. cricketers will be leaving England on Saturday, when a party of twelve amateurs will fly out for a month's tour of South America. Led by Hubert Doggart, the



Ted Dexter, England and Sussex all-rounder

England and Sussex batsman, the team will play four one-day matches, four two-day matches, and two three-day "Test Matches" against Argentina.

This will be the third side to tour South America. The first, in 1912, won six and lost one of their nine matches; and the second, in 1927, won six, lost one, and drew three.

Mervyn Burden, the Hampshire off-spinner, who is at present coaching in South America, will join the team for the first game on December 23.

Dexter fills the gap

TED DEXTER, the England and Sussex all-rounder, would have been in the M.C.C. team leaving for South America on Saturday had he not been specially asked to fly to Australia to join the M.C.C. team there.

Dexter had been waiting for the call for some time, for he was asked to keep himself in readiness almost at the beginning of the Australian tour. Willie Watson had to have an operation on his knee, and it was not known how long it would take to recover. But no sooner had Watson proved his fitness and it was thought that Dexter would not be needed, than Raman Subba Row broke his wrist, and the M.C.C. team were once again a man short.

Framing the first records

THE first world swimming records ever to be set up in Wales were achieved last April by Margaret Edwards of Heston, Middlesex. In the very first meeting held in Cardiff's Empire Pool, specially built for the Empire Games, she set up record times for the 100 metres and 110 yards back-stroke events.

Now Margaret has received the certificate awarded by the International Swimming Federation to commemorate the feat, and she is to present it to Cardiff to be framed and hung at the Pool.

Margaret has also received two other certificates for record-breaking swims. One she is keeping; the other she is presenting to her club.

Pause in the game



Cherry Hauge takes a breather while playing in the Southern Lacrosse Team Trials. She is studying chemistry at London University.

He wants to swim the Channel

DAVID KWAN, a 25-year-old Chinese, has arrived in London after a hike of nearly 19,000 miles from Singapore to satisfy his ambition to swim the English Channel.

David started in May 1957 with ten Malayan dollars (about 23s.) in his pocket. He went to Siam and across the River Kwai into Burma, and then through India. He hopes to work in this country and train for the swim, afterwards returning home via the U.S. and Canada.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who are the Red Dragons in soccer?
2. Can you name the only British athlete to cover more than 50 feet at the hop, step, and jump?
3. Which is the bigger—the American golf ball or the British one?
4. In which game would you play a cannon?
5. Which university has won the Boat Race most times?
6. What is the Wolfe-Noel Cup?

1. The Welsh international team. 2. Ken Wilshurst. 3. The American. 4. Billiards. It is hitting two other balls with your own. 5. Cambridge, with 58 wins to Oxford's 45. 6. Trophy awarded to the winners of the British v. America women's squash match.

SPORTING GALLERY

GRAHAM SHAW

Graham Shaw, Sheffield United left-back, made his first appearance for England on October 22, against Russia. This match, a 5-0 victory for England, was Billy Wright's 98th international, but Graham was as cool as his famous captain. So he has the temperament for the big occasion. He was more ill-at-ease at the banquet following the match,



when a prominent member of the Football Association singled him out in his speech for a special word of praise.

Sheffield-born, Graham Shaw has played only for Sheffield United, who took him from the junior ranks. He reached the League team in the 1952-3 season and since then has experienced the ups and downs of soccer. United won the Second Division Championship and promotion in 1952-3 but held their First Division place for only three seasons.



Against the odds

DANNY CLAPTON, outside-right of Arsenal F.C., who recently gained his first English international cap, is one of the fastest wingers in the game. But as a seven-year-old he had meningitis, which robbed him of sight, speech, and the use of his limbs.

But after a slow and painful struggle the tough young Londoner recovered. Returning to his home, he began to play football, and in time joined Leytonstone. He had no thought of playing professional soccer. In fact, it was his elder brother, himself a good amateur player, who wrote to Arsenal asking for a trial for Danny.

Better next time

Boys at the Fakenham Secondary Modern School, Norfolk, have an American "exchange" teacher for a year. Among the new things he has taught them is how to play American football.

Recently the Fakenham boys challenged a team from a nearby American Air Base. They lost—but they are confident they will do better in the return game.

Special trophy for Peter

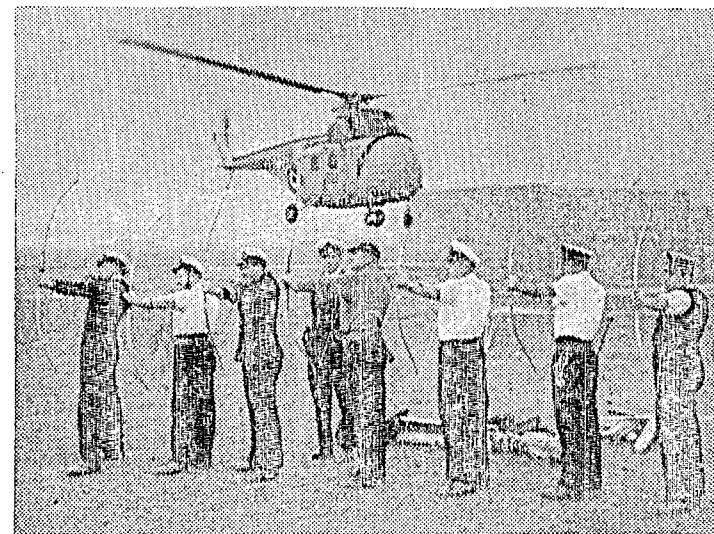
IT is hardly surprising that 17-year-old Peter Standen won the trophy awarded to the best all-rounder of the Bexhill Amateur Athletics Club. For this year Peter carried off eight of the club's championships as well as the cup for the best individual performance of the year.

Peter, who is the English junior 880 yards champion, won his championships over distances from 100 yards to six miles.

The ten trophies, however, can be retained for only one year, so the club is to present him with a special trophy to mark his fine achievement.

The Navy takes to archery

An airfield at Gosport, Hants, is now used for naval engineering training. With little flying going on there is plenty of space for use by a Royal Navy archery club. Some of the members are seen at practice while a helicopter hovers safely in the background.



Blackheath is 100 years old

THE Blackheath Rugby Union club, the oldest independent club in the country, is 100 years old this month, and is celebrating with a centenary match on Saturday against Richmond, whose origin dates from 1862.

When Blackheath was first formed, clubs played football according to their own rules, the games generally being a mixture of both codes as we know them today.

In 1863, when yet another attempt was made to make the

rules universal, the Blackheath representative at the meeting was against the proposals to ban running with the ball, and hacking and tripping. He was outnumbered—and the Football Association was born.

It was seen, however, that if the handling game was to prosper, all clubs playing that type of game should observe the same rules; and in 1871 Blackheath was one of the founder clubs of the Rugby Union.

About 220 Blackheath players have won international honours.

CAN YOU SPOT THESE DOGS?



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